

What is claimed is:

1. A system for facilitating use of inventions in accordance with a business model, the system comprising:

5 a server coupled to a network for receiving descriptions of inventions;
a classification module for classifying inventions into predetermined classes;

an evaluation module for providing evaluations of the inventions; and
a database for storing the descriptions of inventions and evaluations by
10 class and providing search facilities via the network for potential customers not related to the innovators to find inventions.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the evaluations are selected from the group consisting of prior art searches, technical feasibility reviews,
15 commercial viability analysis and legal evaluation.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the server further comprises a facilitator for controlling interaction between innovators and potential customers.
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4. The system of claim 3 wherein the facilitator provides for potential customers to fund intellectual property protection for inventions.

5. The system of claim 3 wherein the facilitator provides the ability to
25 refine inventions based on evaluations.

6. The system of claim 3 wherein the facilitator controls access to a selected group of potential customers.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein an owner of the system is provided rights to a royalty on the inventions.

8. The system of claim 1 and further comprising a translation module that translates descriptions of inventions.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein the database also contains indications of issued patents on inventions.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the server further screens and validates descriptions of inventions.

11. A computer implemented business model of facilitating the use and protection of inventions, the model comprising:

- receiving descriptions of inventions;
- categorizing the inventions;
- evaluating the inventions for potential licensing value;
- providing a database containing the inventions and evaluations; and
- making the database selectively viewable to potential customers of the inventions who are not related to the innovators.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein evaluating is performed with respect to prior art searches, technical feasibility reviews, commercial viability analysis and legal evaluation.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein and further comprising controlling interaction between innovators and potential customers.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein controlling interaction between innovators and potential customers comprises providing anonymity of at least one of the innovators and potential customers.

5 15. The method of claim 12 and further comprising providing for potential customers to fund intellectual property protection for inventions.

16. The method of claim 12 and further comprising providing the ability to refine inventions based on evaluations.

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17. The method of claim 11 and also comprising providing indications of issued patents on inventions.

18. The method of claim 11 and further comprising screening and validating descriptions of inventions.

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19. The method of claim 11 and further comprising controlling access to a selected group of potential customers.

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20. The method of claim 11 and further comprising providing rights to a royalty on the inventions.

21. The method of claim 11 and further comprising translating descriptions of inventions to desired languages.

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22. A method of facilitating invention in accordance with a business model, the method comprising:

receiving invention input from multiple independent innovators coupled by network;

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validating the invention input;

categorizing the invention input into discrete technical categories;
 evaluating the invention input;
 providing a recommendation based on the evaluations; and
 making the invention input and recommendation available to selective
 independent customers via network connection.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein evaluating is based on at least one of
 prior art searching, technical feasibility, commercial viability and legal
 evaluation.

24. The method of claim 22 and further comprising facilitating protection
 of an invention by involving a potential customer to provide funding for such
 protection in exchange an interest in the invention.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein at least some of the elements are
 performed by humans.

26. The method of claim 22 and further comprising controlling access to a
 selected group of potential customers.

27. The method of claim 22 and further comprising providing rights to a
 royalty on the inventions.

28. The method of claim 22 and further comprising translating
 descriptions of inventions to desired languages.

29. A system for facilitating invention in accordance with a business
 model, the system comprising:
 a module that receives invention input from multiple independent
 innovators coupled by network;

a module that validates the invention input;
 a module that categorizes the invention input into discrete technical
 categories;
 a module that evaluates the invention input;
 5 a module that provides a recommendation based on the evaluations;
 and
 a module that makes the invention input and recommendation
 available to selective independent customers via network connection.

10 30. The system of claim 29 wherein the modules are managed by an entity
 that owns the business model.

31. A computer readable medium having instructions thereon for causing a
 server computer to execute a method of facilitating invention, the method
 15 comprising:
 receiving invention input from multiple independent innovators
 coupled by network;
 facilitating validation of the invention input;
 facilitating categorization of the invention input into discrete technical
 20 categories;
 facilitating evaluation of the invention input;
 facilitating the provision of a recommendation based on the
 evaluations; and
 facilitating the making of the invention input and recommendation
 25 available to selective independent customers via network connection.